



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending May 17, 2014

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports come in.

SUMMARY

During the week ending May 17, 2014, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **WIDESPREAD** geographic activity. The geographic activity level indicates the distribution of influenza activity, not the severity. Most indicators are continuing to decline and approaching their inter-seasonal levels. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by our Sentinel Providers increased from last week, while the proportion reported by Maryland Emergency Departments decreased. Our Sentinel Labs and the State Lab both reported testing fewer specimens and saw a drop in the percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza. Seven influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. There were two outbreaks of influenza.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels

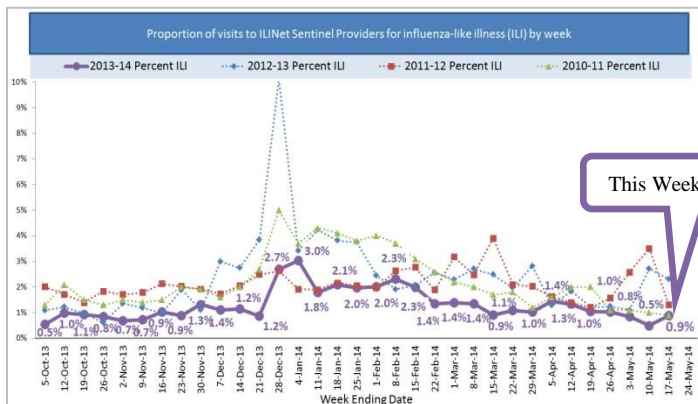
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread

No Activity
Sporadic
Local
Regional
✓ Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

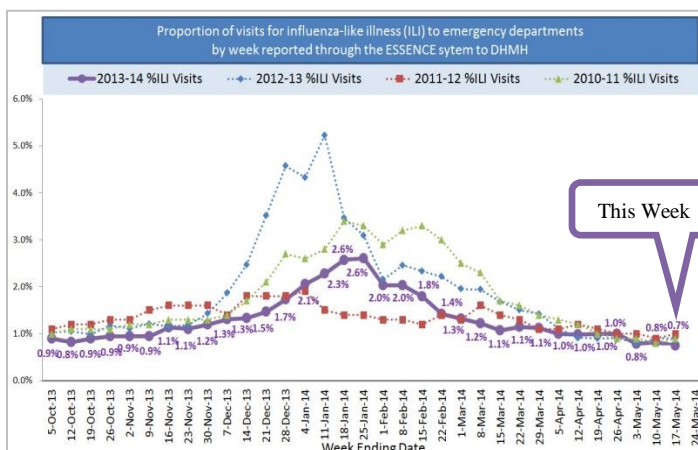
Eleven sentinel providers reported a total of 6,720 visits this week. Of those, 60 (0.9%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	14 (23%)	15 (42%)	1015 (24%)
Age 5-24	31 (52%)	14 (39%)	1688 (40%)
Age 25-49	12 (20%)	6 (17%)	1099 (26%)
Age 50-64	2 (3%)	1 (3%)	325 (8%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	91 (2%)
Total ILI Visits	60 (100%)	36 (100%)	4218 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 45,307 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 339 (0.7%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	99 (29%)	91 (24%)	4678 (25%)
Age 5-24	105 (31%)	135 (36%)	5051 (27%)
Age 25-49	82 (24%)	101 (27%)	6110 (32%)
Age 50-64	37 (11%)	34 (9%)	2150 (11%)
Age ≥ 65	16 (5%)	16 (4%)	865 (5%)
Unknown	0 (0%)	1 (<1%)	42 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	339 (100%)	378 (100%)	18896(100%)

Other states' influenza information:

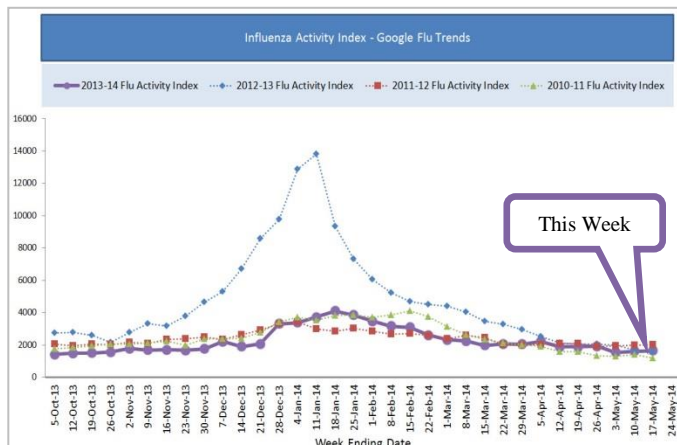
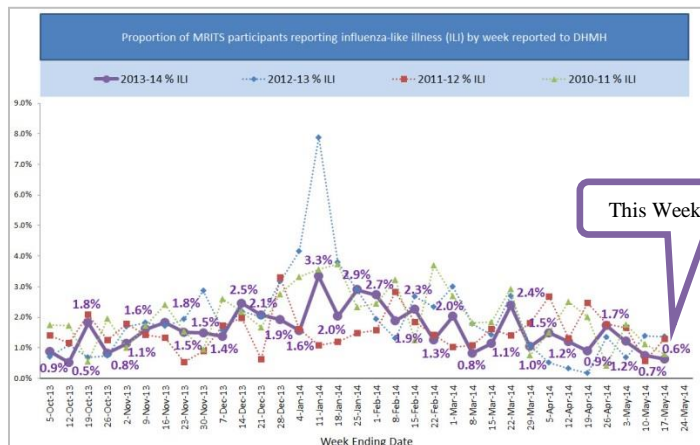
Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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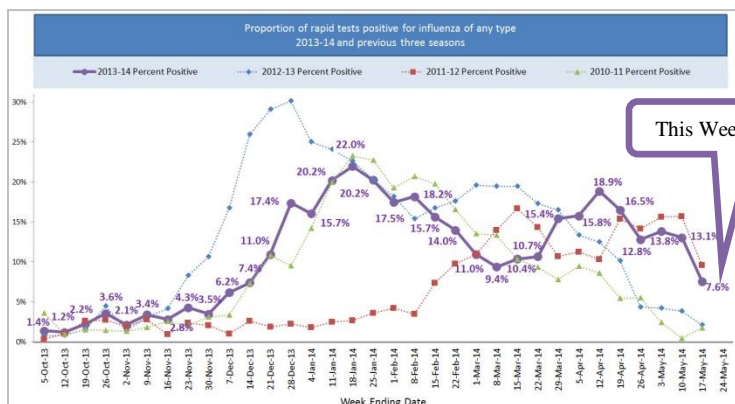
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 477 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 3 (0.6%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 7 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "Low" in Maryland.

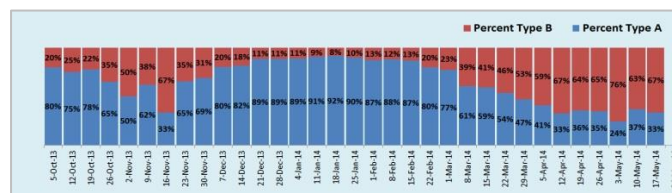


Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Twenty-eight clinical laboratories reported performing 278 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 21 (7.6%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, seven (33.3%) were influenza Type A and 14 (66.7%) were influenza Type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

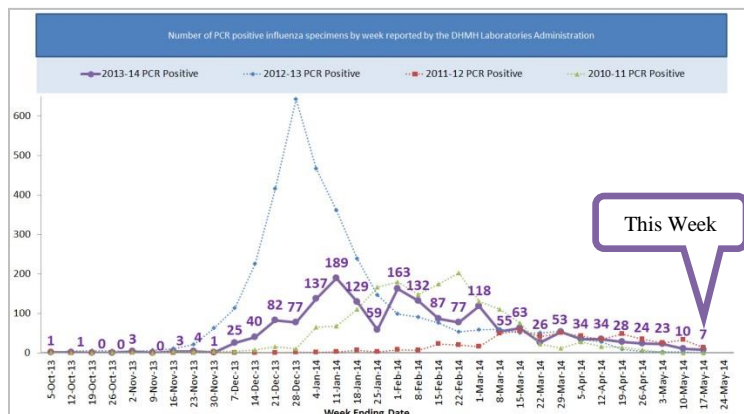


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	7 (33%)	18 (37%)	6799 (80%)
Type B	14 (67%)	31 (63%)	1743 (20%)
Total	21 (100%)	49 (100%)	8542 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 28 PCR tests for influenza and seven (25.0%) specimens tested positive. All seven were Type B. PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	--	--	1422 (84%)
Type A (H3)	--	6 (60%)	113 (7%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	7 (100%)	4 (40%)	151 (9%)
Total	7 (100%)	10 (100%)	1686 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

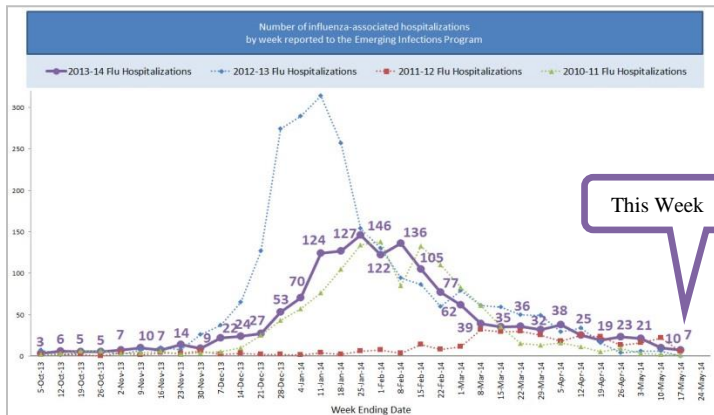
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2013-14 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumud/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

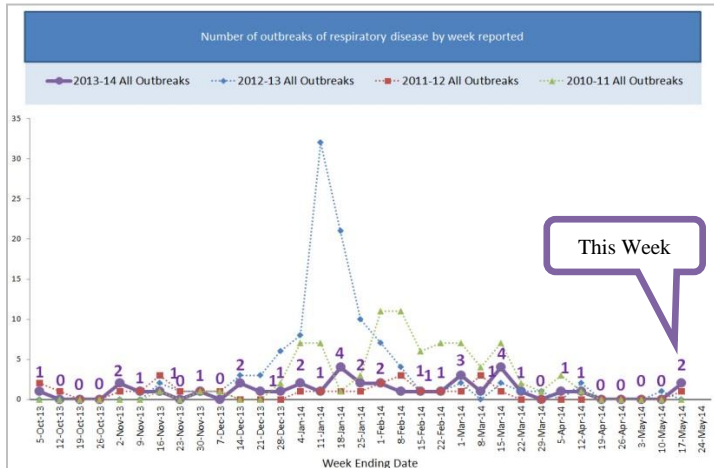
This week, hospitals in Maryland reported seven influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	0 (0%)	1 (10%)	130 (9%)
Age 5-17	0 (0%)	1 (10%)	63 (4%)
Age 18-24	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	47 (3%)
Age 25-49	2 (29%)	2 (20%)	373 (26%)
Age 50-64	4 (57%)	3 (30%)	434 (30%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (14%)	3 (30%)	399 (28%)
Total	7 (100%)	10 (100%)	1446 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There were two outbreaks of influenza reported to DHMH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	2 (100%)	--	22 (59%)
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	8 (22%)
Pneumonia	--	--	7 (19%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	2 (100%)	--	37 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

Influenza surveillance updates for the United States are posted online every Friday on the CDC website. Due to the State offices being closed on Friday, May 23, 2014, this report is being published before this week’s national updates are available. If you wish to see this week’s national surveillance update, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly> on or after Friday, May 23.